

December 7, 2001

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS
IN HONORING THE CREW AND
PASSENGERS OF UNITED AIR-
LINES FLIGHT 93

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2001

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 232, which formally expresses the sentiment of Congress in honoring the crew and passengers aboard United Airlines Flight 93.

On September 11, 2001, four aircraft were hijacked and then simultaneously used as weapons of mass destruction against the United States. Through the selfless acts of the crew and passengers, one of those aircraft, United Airlines Flight 93, fell far short of its intended target—Washington, D.C. I have no doubt that it is because of the heroic actions taken by the crew and passengers of Flight 93, that the Washington D.C. area did not sustain more damage. We owe them our eternal gratitude.

Like the Pan Am 103 terrorist attack in December 1988, the events of September 11th have challenged us as a nation, and have forced this Congress and this Administration to re-evaluate the state of security for domestic and international commercial air service.

On November 19, 2001, President Bush signed into law the Aviation and Transportation Security Act (P.L. 107-71). This Act completely overhauls our nation's aviation security system. In addition to integrating all security functions within a new Transportation Security Administration, the Act also federalizes the screening workforce to greatly improve the quality of the screening process. Further, the Act mandates 100 percent checked-baggage screening, strengthens cockpit security, expands the Federal Air Marshal program, and ensures that all crewmembers receive proper training to deal with terrorist attacks. These changes will go far to close loopholes in aviation security. Equally important, however, is to ensure that our intelligence gathering keeps pace with these new threats. Credible, potential threat information must be readily synthesized and disseminated to prevent a future tragedy such as that befalling Flight 93.

Eleven years ago, the President's Commission on Aviation Security and Terrorism, on which I served as a Commissioner, recommended that we become more aggressive in our intelligence gathering, evaluation, and dissemination. Quoting from the report,

The Commission also recommends greater emphasis within the intelligence community on developing a specific union whose principle function will be long-term strategic thinking and planning on terrorism. The objective is to be better able to anticipate future terrorist strategies and tactics, rather than simply to react to incidents as they occur.

This is the most challenging aspect of our aviation security network. It is difficult to penetrate these highly-secretive organizations that operate on a war-like footing. The Aviation and Transportation Security Act requires the

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coordination and sharing and dissemination of intelligence information among federal agencies, including the new Transportation Security Administration. Counter-terrorism also requires renewed higher-level coordination through Interpol, with our allies, and with other nations like Russia and China, as the PanAm Commission recommended eleven years ago. The skills of terrorists have stepped up several levels since the Commission's 1990 report. We must ensure that our counter-intelligence rises to meet that threat.

With the appropriate counter-intelligence efforts and security implemented to the fullest extent, we can ensure that the legacy of the crew and passengers of Flight 93 is world-class aviation and inter-modal security system. Our citizens can forever enjoy the freedom of travel that this great nation provides to the envy of the rest of the world.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

THE CLEAN DIAMOND TRADE ACT

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2001

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a cosponsor H.R. 2722 to give it my full support and urge my colleagues to join me in passing this important piece of legislation. This bill will improve the lives of countless persons in Africa and around the world.

For too long, the diamond trade has been a source of funds for violent rogue leaders and their cronies to purchase the weapons they use to terrorize, dominate, and murder innocent civilians in some of the world's most desperate countries. The illegal diamond trade has also been a significant source of funds for the al Qaeda terrorist organization and Ossama bin Laden. Wars have been fought and entire populations have been eliminated in pursuit of this dirty money, but today the United States Congress will act to cut off the flow of these "Conflict Diamonds."

Today, we take the first step to prohibit the importation of conflict diamonds and their derivatives into the United States. This will have an immediate and major impact on the international diamond market. The United States is a major buyer of diamonds, and our importation policy will immediately begin to end the trade in conflict diamonds and force international diamond brokers to certify that their suppliers do not engage in illegal activities.

I am pleased to see that the United States is taking such swift and determined action on this important issue. This is an important day for international human rights, and our actions here today will have a lasting impact on the lives of millions around the world. Please join me in voting "yes" on H.R. 2722.

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IN HONOR OF NICOLE CHRIS-STINA
MASON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Nicole Chris-stina Mason in recognition of her selection as the Concerned Women of Brooklyn's Youth of the Year.

Nicole Chris-stina Mason was born in Brooklyn on October 8, 1984 and she has been raising eyebrows ever since. She is currently a junior at Boys and Girls High with a B average in the honors program. As she looks to the future, Nicole is preparing for the challenges and opportunities that will be offered in college. She is planning attending either Ohio State or the University of Florida to study Computer Engineering next fall.

In addition to focusing on her schoolwork, Nicole is involved in numerous other activities. At Boys and Girls High School, during the spring semester, Nicole is a part of the softball team. She has been on the team now for three-years and hopes to continue playing in college. Also, during her lunchtime, Nicole volunteers in the school snack store. When she is not in school, Nicole works part-time at McDonald's to save money for college.

During Nicole's young life she has already received numerous honors: in junior high school, Nicole received the Principal Award for being on the honor roll for both years of Junior High School; she received an athletic award, a leadership award, a Presidential Education Award signed by then President Bill Clinton, and a Science Award from the United Federation of Teachers Science Committee for my Science Award winning 1st place in the science fair. More recently, at Boys and Girls High School she has received awards in math and computer as "student of the month", a Martin Luther King Jr. Award, an Achievement Award, several Honor Roll plaques, and also had her picture and biography in the United States Achievement Academy 2000 National Awards book for Foreign Language. Outside of school, she has received a Choir Member of the Year Award from Berean Missionary Baptist Church.

Mr. Speaker, Nicole Chris-stina Mason is a rising star. She has received numerous awards and is just beginning what will be a life full of success. This weekend she is being honored by the Concerned Women of Brooklyn as their Youth of the Year. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this young woman on the cusp of stardom.

HONORING SHERIFF PATRICK J.
SULLIVAN, JR.

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2001

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I consider it a great privilege to have this opportunity to pay

tribute to Mr. Patrick J. Sullivan, Jr. He has dedicated the majority of his life to preserving the rights and freedoms of American citizens. He will be honored on December 10, 2001 as a recipient of the Annual Civil Rights Award presented by the Civil Rights Committee of the Mountain States office of the Anti-Defamation League.

Patrick Sullivan began his service as a law enforcement officer in 1962 at the Littleton Police Department. In 1983, he was appointed to the position of Sheriff of the Arapahoe County Sheriffs Department, which he still holds today. In addition to winning every election campaign for Sheriff since 1984, he has accomplished many goals in his effort to protect American citizens. His most widely recognized initiative is in his ongoing fight against hate crimes. In this fight he has testified before this body of Congress and has played an active and successful role in creating the U.S. Department of Justice Hate Crime Training Program.

Mr. Speaker, as a former police officer myself, it is my honor to recognize Sheriff Patrick Sullivan, Jr. for his dedication to the safety of America's citizens. He has accomplished many endeavors at both the national and local levels. Sheriff Sullivan deserves not only the recognition inherent in receiving the Annual Civil Rights Award, but also the praise and admiration of this body. Congratulations Sheriff Sullivan, thank you for your service.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MR. ALLAN JONES

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2001

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the generosity of and pay tribute to one of my constituents—Mr. Allan Jones.

Mr. Jones lives in Bradley County, Tennessee, where he grew up. During his high school years, he became a member of the wrestling team. He has said that wrestling taught him determination, discipline and character.

In the years since his high school wrestling career, he has certainly exhibited these qualities. Most recently, he did so with a large donation to the Cleveland High School to build a first-class wrestling center. This donation represents more than \$1 million that Mr. Jones has given to the sport of wrestling in his hometown.

This is the largest amount ever given by one individual to a public high school in Tennessee.

Groundbreaking on this new facility was held only weeks after the gift was made, and the construction was completed in six months. The center was named the W.A. Jones Arena after Mr. Jones' father. This 10,000 square foot facility will seat 500 people and be open year-round for wrestling events.

The Cleveland High School wrestling coach described the new center when he said, "This is a dream come true. I can tell you that we'll be the envy of the wrestling teams in the area".

Mr. Jones has also provided financial assistance for needed equipment, and scholarship funds for local wrestlers. In addition, he organized and funded the first Wrestling Kids Club.

He has also made many other contributions in his community that are really too lengthy to mention. Mr. Jones is someone who cares about the young people in our Country, and his efforts will have a positive impact for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we can all do more to give back to our communities. Allan Jones has set an example for all Americans.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE DEATH OF MR. JOE FIGUEROA BARRAGAN

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2001

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the death of Mr. Joe Figueroa Barragan, a labor leader and a dear friend.

Mr. Barragan passed away on Sunday, November 18th from a heart attack. Joe Barragan was born in Jalisco, Mexico on May 12, 1957. He immigrated to America at the age of six along with his family and at the age of 31 became a U.S. citizen. Joe Barragan lived a life reflective of the inspiration he gained from Cesar Chavez, the great labor and civil rights leader. Mr. Barragan was often quoted saying "I believe that we are blessed by God to be in the Labor Movement and we should do our best every day to help improve the lives of others."

Mr. Barragan's career in the retail grocery business began as a clerk's helper in 1977. A decade later, he became a union representative and field director for the United Food and Commercial Workers Union (UFCW). In 1991, Joe Barragan became President of Local 1428 of the UFCW. During his ten years as President of Local 1428, he earned the reputation of being one of the most progressive and innovative union in the nation.

Mr. Barragan also served as National President of United Latinos of UFCW and was former President and Vice President of Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA). Mr. Barragan was also very active in the Democratic Party, having been a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1996, participated in the Convention in Los Angeles in 2000. I am pleased that he supported me throughout my career,

Mr. Barragan will be truly missed by his wife of 21 years, Renata, his daughters, Lauren and Taylor, his family, friends, and fellow labor brothers and sisters. I am saddened by the loss of such an important member of our community. Mr. Barragan is a true leader that will be remembered for his personal sacrifice and service to his community.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO HENRY BERNARD DANNELS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the life and memory of a valuable member of the community of Estes Park, Colorado. Henry Bernard Dannels died recently, at the age of seventy-eight. He was a kind mind with a caring heart and will surely be missed by all those whom Henry knew.

Mr. Dannels was born in Longmont, Colorado in 1923. As a teenager, he moved with his family to Estes Park where he attended high school. He later went on to graduate from the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley after which he began his public service. Dannels served as a Lieutenant and Commanding Officer in the Navy during World War II in the Pacific theatre. After returning to Colorado, Henry became a fixture for the youth in his community, volunteering for the Boy Scouts of America as a Cubmaster, Scoutmaster and Explorer Advisor. In recognition of his efforts, he was honored with the Silver Beaver Award from the Boy Scouts of America as well as the Golden Key Award from the City of Estes Park.

Henry's true dedication and service to his community began in 1972. Following in his father's footsteps, he was elected as a town trustee for Estes Park. He served as a town trustee until he was elected Mayor in 1984. Mr. Dannels served as a dedicated and caring Mayor until his retirement in 1996. Prior to retiring, he established a long list of achievements. His efforts and accomplishments did not go unnoticed. December 18, 1992 was named "Mayor Bernie's Day."

Mr. Speaker, Henry was a great asset to the people and the town of Estes Park, Colorado. He fought for Americans in the Pacific as well as in City Hall. My thoughts and prayers go out to Mr. Dannels' friends and family during these trying times. Henry's efforts will serve as a benchmark for those who follow his lead and his contributions will not be forgotten.

SLOVAK PARLIAMENT NARROWLY DEFEATS REPEAL OF CRIMINAL DEFAMATION PROVISIONS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2001

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on November 8, Slovak Parliamentarian Tomas Galbavy, a member of the ruling Slovak Democratic Coalition, introduced an amendment to the Slovak penal code which would repeal articles that make defamation of certain public officials a crime. My fellow parliamentarian made an important stand at a time when many seem to believe that free speech is an expendable luxury. As Co-Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I commend Deputy Galbavy for his efforts to strengthen one of the most important cornerstones of democracy.